

CHIEF ISSUE IS STILL UNSETTLED

Court Passes on Two Minor Points in Case of Charlton.

HEARING IS POSTPONED

Counsel for Confessed Wife-Murderer Are Putting Up Hard Fight.

Trenton, N. J., December 19.—The hearing before Judge Bellstab in the United States Circuit Court in the habeas corpus proceedings instituted with a view to preventing the extradition to Italy of Porter Charlton, who confessed to the murder of his American wife in that country some months ago, was postponed this evening by mutual consent until January 2, so far as the main issue is concerned. Before this, however, Judge Bellstab listened to arguments on preliminary points raised, and made two rulings, reserving his decision as to the third point.

The first point involved an application by R. Floyd Clarke, Charlton's counsel, for elimination from the records of the return of Saerit Kelly, of Hudson county, who has young Charlton in custody, which gave an account of the proceedings against Charlton in the recorder's court of Hoboken. Prosecutor P. D. Garven, of Hudson county, who appeared as counsel for the Italian government, offered no objection and the application was allowed.

Next Mr. Clark wanted elimination from the records of a letter from the Secretary of State of the United States to the clerk of Judge Bellstab's court, certifying to the application for the extradition of Charlton within the forty days required by the treaty between the Italian and American governments. Such certification did not appear in the formal return that made by the Department of State.

Judge Bellstab ruled that the letter was not a part of the formal return and therefore not a part of the records before him, but he suggested that Mr. Garven might get the certification before him by making an application for a writ of certiorari directing the Department of State to make an additional return setting out that the extradition application was made within the required time.

Mr. Garven then moved for such a writ, and his application was allowed over the objection of Charlton's counsel.

As a third preliminary move counsel for young Charlton applied for a writ of certiorari directing the Department of State of the United States to produce all the diplomatic correspondence between the two countries on the question of extradition.

Judge Bellstab, while withholding an opinion on the application, intimated a doubt as to his authority to compel the production of this correspondence at this stage of the proceedings.

When the case was finished, Young Charlton, who was present during the proceedings, was taken back to the Hudson county jail by Sheriff Kelly.

A SMALL BUNCH OF GOSSIP CONCERNING LEAGUE AFFAIRS

BY GUS MALBERG.

It does sound peculiar to hear a suggestion from the ball teams in the western part of the State to the effect that the circuit of the Virginia League be expanded so as to include eight clubs next season. While it might appear harmless to admit Newport News and Portsmouth to the organization, in reality the league will be burdening itself unnecessarily should such action be taken.

So far as we in Richmond are concerned, there can be no reason for our offering objections, except in so far as we have the interests of the league at heart. We are going to have baseball in Richmond, and that's what we are primarily interested in. But why the need of an eight-club affair?

Were the situation in Norfolk cleared

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up there would have been no such suggestion. Then why, just because they are determined to act pigheaded in Norfolk, should there be any such suggestion now? The league managed to worry along with a six-club circuit for five years and it is rumored that somebody made some money. Why take chances on an unwieldy organization at this time? Better let well enough alone.

So far as I am concerned, it is immaterial whether the league has eight teams or six, just so long as there is good baseball. But methinks the people up-State have been scared by the blustering of the people down on the coast. Some of the newspapers have fallen for the bait and I verily believe are afraid that some action might be taken at the meeting to be held in January which would throw them out. Take it from me, those of you who are blustering that Norfolk will come docilely into the fold and will be so tame that she will eat out of your hands.

One Grand Bluff. It's nothing but a big case of bluff. They're playing, and when they are

Will Wage Vigorous Campaign for Parcels Post



Prominent figures in the parcels post fight:

1. Postmaster-General Hitchcock, who favors a rural parcels post, and who would have charge of this system, should it be established.

2. James L. Cowles, founder and secretary of the Postal Progress League.

3. Frederick C. Beach, editor of the Scientific American and president of the Postal Progress League.

4. Frank H. Platt, head of the United States Express Company, who leads the fight of the express companies against the establishment of a parcels post.

Washington, December 19.—A parcels post will be one of the most important subjects that the present Congress will have to deal with, and the champions of this movement feel confident that some definite steps will be taken toward the establishment of this system before Congress adjourns next March.

The fact that both President Taft, in his annual message, and Postmas-

ter-General Hitchcock, in his annual report, have recommended the rural

parcels post, has greatly strengthened their hopes, and they believe that if once a system is established for the rural districts, it will only be a short time before it is made general.

James L. Cowles, founder and secretary of the Postal Progress League, says that a vigorous campaign will be made this year in Washington to bring about the enactment of some parcels post legislation.

Will Inspect Spray Mills. Danville, Va., December 19.—A party of Marshall Field & Company's traveling salesmen of Chicago are now in Spray, N. C. to inspect the seven cotton and woolen mills, which the Field Company purchased several months ago. They arrived here about 4 o'clock, and after supper left on a special train over the Danville and Western for Spray.

AMUSEMENTS

Academy of Music—Dark. Blight—"At the Old Cross Roads," matinee and night.

Another Perfect Performance. Probably the largest, certainly the most brilliant audience of the season, welcomed the wonderful Mrs. Fiske last night at the Academy of Music as Becky Sharp. The quotation marks

are omitted because Becky is a living, breathing personality to practically the whole English speaking world, and, doubtless, will always be. And Mrs. Fiske's performance is simply a physical presentation of a character that all of us have known all our lives.

After having seen last night's performance it is difficult to decide which is the more admirable—Mrs. Fiske, the actor, or Mrs. Fiske, the producer. For with Mr. Fiske, she actually produces, directs, "puts on," in a word, all the plays in which she appears—one of the all too few literally independent producing managers of our stage. And the company with which she has surrounded herself is so astoundingly good that, even when she is not on, the performance is a thing of delight to the chronic theatre-goer, who has grown weary to death of companies consisting of a star and some other people. In the play, Becky does one kindly, generous act, hard and shallow, grasping and ambitious as she is, in real life, the life of the stage, Mrs. Fiske is so pre-eminently good, so big, that she has given the parts of the characters opposite to and with her to men and women who get the last bit of humor or dramatic strength out of them, without the least fear lest they distract the attention of the house from her—"steal the show," as they call it.

And well can she afford to have competent people with her, for, in spite of her almost striking lack of personal pulchritude, she is so full of magnetism, so skilled an artist, so perfect a reader, so alive with an intimate knowledge of the dramatic value of little things, that her work is a delightful exposition of what to do on the stage and how to do it—an artist to the tips of her facile fingers.

The final curtain did not ring down until 11:30, but not only lack of space, but of time prevents any attempt at telling the story of the dramatized version of "Vanity Fair."

Not only is it hard to write modestly of Mrs. Fiske, but it is difficult not to splash over a speaking of the work of the members of her company. Every little bit was well done—small, servants' parts and all. Leonard Shepherd was hideously convincing, as Lord Steyne, Robert V. Ferguson showed real ability in the two character parts of Sir Pitt Crawley and the German landlord, Henry Stephenson gave a finished, polished and powerful performance as Rawdon Crawley—one of the best performances I have seen for many a day—Reginald Carrington, as Captain Dobbin, and R. W. Tucker, as Lieutenant Osborne, were excellent; Harold Russell was beyond criticism as Joseph Sedley; Roydon Erlynn simply was the dilapidated Major Loder; Helena Van Brugh was a sufficiently weak and vulgar Mrs. Amalia Madden's performance of the small bit of Briggs was more than good, and Florina Arnold was huge and delicious as Miss Crawley. There were some ten or fifteen others who deserve mention, but, again, there is neither space nor time.

About as nearly perfect a performance as we shall see. W. D. G.

Not One of Its Best. Little more than half a house saw the production of "At the Old Cross Roads" in the Bijou last night. Only a few had anything good to say about it. The play turned out to be a poor edition of the "Sins of the Fathers"—a story that more vulgar and a little less interesting. It was the kind of play that the gallery calls "intensely dramatic," but leaves a bad impression on the rest of the house. Nearly every one sang, and nearly all of them sang poorly. There was some acting of the melodramatic variety, which was as good as is generally seen on the Bijou stage, but the play as a whole is not so good as any Southern audience would accept very kindly.

There was one bright spot, the same being Tom Smith, who first appears in the role of a tramp and later does as well as the Count de Monty, who gets away with the susceptible young heiress, as "Doc" Kerr, the gambler, would say, as easily as though he held four kings and the ace of hearts. The count sang a song while he was tramp that made a hit.

Individually, some of the actors made good impressions. Doc Kerr knew all the poker parlance that one need be familiar with; the tramp was full of his own kind of dope, and Lella Bennett, Aunt Liza's "Moses of the Bullrushes," sang better than the rest. The show, however, is not one that will appeal strongly to a Richmond audience.

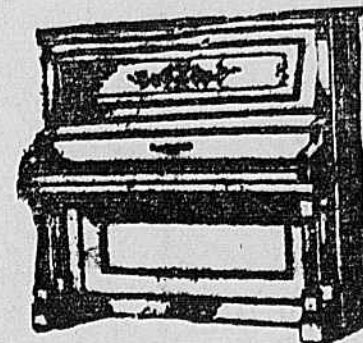
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